Remarks

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2 and 6, which have been cancelled.

II.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,334,119 to Gagliardi ("Gagliardi") in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/008301 Carroll ("Carroll"). Also, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gagliardi in view of Carroll in further view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0101446 to McManus ("McManus").

The primary reference, Gagliardi, fails to disclose certain features of independent claim 1, and the secondary references fail to correct these deficiencies. In particular, Gagliardi fails to disclose the claimed features whereby the networking features are directly embedded in the inserter controller computer.

In the September 20, 2007 Office Action the Examiner argued that Gagliardi disclosed "networking" by virtue of the fact that Gagliardi shows an inserter computer connected to other computers. However, it is an oversimplification to say that the interconnected computers of Gagliardi satisfy the specific network capabilities embedded in the inserter controller computer, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 includes the following recitation, which is not disclosed in Gagliardi or the other asserted references:

> "the controller computer further comprising a network port for directly transmitting status data processed by the network protocol object to an external network, and the network port and the network protocol object further configured for accepting incoming requests from the external network, **the controller computer configured for transmitting inserter status data in real-time, without need for withdrawal of information from a database or repository in the controller computer...**"

Gagliardi does not include any networking port or protocol that provides for transmittal of inserter status in real time. The disclosure of Gagliardi specifically teaches away from this arrangement. Gagliardi describes:

> "After the inserter system 10 completes it's "mail run job", all the **statistical data information (including the aforesaid postal information) relating to that "mail run job" remains stored in memory** in the control system 14 of the inserter 10 (step 306). When a user of the OMS 100 desires to obtain statistical data information from a chosen postal meter on one of the inserter systems 10 coupled to the OMS 100 (FIG. 2), the user instructs the OMS 100 to send a signal to the control system 14 of the inserter system 10, via file server 102, having the chosen postage meter 104 or 106 to transmit that statistical data regarding the chosen postage meter 104 or 106 to the OMS 100 (step 308)."

Col. 8, lines 20-31.

Thus, Gagliardi describes a system where information is stored in memory, and the inserter must wait until an external query to provide the information. Gagliardi discloses a conventional arrangement whereby the file server **102** is located external to the inserter systems **10**, and acts as a communication means from the inserter systems **10** to the operating management system **100**. This type of remote networking arrangement was acknowledged and described in the background of the present application:

> "With conventional inserter systems it is sometimes desired to remotely monitor the status and configuration of the inserter equipment. In order to accomplish this, the inserter control system stores status information for various modules in a database. Such database is typically stored on a hard drive on a controller computer. Periodically this database is uploaded to an external network server from the controller computer hard drive. This network server includes the appropriate protocols to allow the database information to be transmitted over a network. For example, an HTTP Internet server may serve a database or repository populated with information from the inserter controller." (Specification, carryover paragraph, pages 3-4).

The long standing need for the improved system recited in Claim 1 was also described in the specification of the present application:

> "The present invention fills a long standing need to provide the most current inserter status and configuration

information for transmission over a network. The invention eliminates the need for a database or repository for storing inserter status information by incorporating a web server directly into the inserter control equipment. By incorporating the web server directly into the inserter controller, current status information may be efficiently provided on demand, and in real-time."

(Specification, page 4, lines 9-14).

Accordingly, it will be understood that Gagliardi does not teach the recited network features integrated into the inserter controller, and that Gagliardi only describes the conventional system that was to be improved upon by the present invention. The Carroll and McManus references were asserted for other features and fail to correct these identified deficiencies of Gagliardi.

It is respectfully submitted this application is in a condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned representative if there are any questions regarding this application.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted this application is in a condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned representative if there are any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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